Survey to Gauge the Popularity of Serials

1648. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials in Doordarshan decide the acceptability of a particular programme or serial like 'Nukkad' or whether Doordarshan conduct any survey to find out the acceptability of such programmes ; and

(b) if so, what are the criteria for giving extension to various serials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) The proposals for serials are considered by a Selection Committee which besides officials of Doordarshan also includes non-official member from out ide Doordarshan. Serials are approved for number of episodes and extension is considered on merits in individual cases depending on factors like popularity, production quality, impact, audience reaction, critics opinion and programme requirements of Doordarshan.

Import of Pulses

1649. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of pulses imported during the last three years; and

(b) the quantity of pulses to be proposed to be imported during 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The quantity of pulses imported during 1982-83 and 1983-84 were of the order of 1·02 lakh tonnes and 2·28 lakh tonnes respectively. Data on actual imports during 1984-85 are not available. However, according to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) which is registering contracts for import of pulses, the quantity for which contracts were registered for imports during 1984-85 was of the order of 3.14 lakh tonnes.

(b) Pulses are allowed for imports by all persons under Open General Licence subject to registration of contracts with NAFED and fulfilment of the required procedures. As such, it is not possible to anticipate the import of pulses that would be made by the importers.

Aralam Central Agricultural Farm, Kerala

1650. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any disputes regarding the minimum wages of workers in the Aralam Central Agrilultural Farm in Cannanore district, Kerala;

(b) if so, whether it is due to the refusal of the concerned authorities to implement the award of the arbitration ;

(c) what steps have been taken by the authorities to implement the aribitration award now, since the special leave petition filed in the Supreme Court was decided in favour of the workers ?